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May 20, 2014

Dear Friends,

I look forward to every District Work Period when I get to celebrate the accomplishments of our great citizens and work with communities to solve pressing problems. From meeting with homeschooling students in McHenry to getting an up close look at important Illinois manufacturers that provide thousands of jobs to our workers, I am honored to be able to share with them about what I am doing to represent them in Washington and help them solve local challenges. I am always happy to meet with residents like you to talk about your concerns, opinions and ideas about how to grow our economy and improve the quality of life in the 14th District.

Please read on to see where I traveled to meet constituents during last week's District Work Period. Need help with Medicare, Veterans Affairs, or Social Security benefits? See below my signature for a list of dates, times and locations where I will be making my staff available for a full working day to address any issues you may have while I am working in Washington. My staff will listen to your concerns and deliver those concerns directly to me.

[Meeting with Constituents, Businesses across McHenry and Lake Counties](#)

Last week, I talked about U.S. government and the importance of getting a STEM-focused education with students from across northern Illinois, including Crystal Lake, Huntley, Algonquin, Johnsburg, Spring Grove, Woodstock and Harvard, at an assembly sponsored by MCCSG.org, a charity that provides enrichment and educational programs for homeschoolers.



(Rep. Hultgren addresses a homeschool assembly)

Later I toured Petroferm, a Gurnee manufacturer and marketer of specialty cleaning agents to meet the demands of high reliability manufacturing operations including electronics assembly and semiconductor packaging applications. Petroferm is a member of IPC — Association Connecting Electronics Industries, a global industry association representing all facets of the electronics industry which, among other things, pushes for removing regulatory burdens that hinder Americans competitiveness and innovation, and get in the way of hiring workers and expanding businesses.

Survey Results

This month, the St. Charles school board passed a resolution to "request that elected State officials carefully review, question, and oppose legislation that provides further appropriations for the development, implementation, field testing, or administration of the Common Core Standards and the PARCC assessment program." Do you support their effort?

Answer	Total
Yes	68.04%
No	21.65%
Not sure	2.06%
I don't know what Common Core is	8.25%

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(Rep. Hultgren is briefed on importance of chemically-based cleaning products for manufacturing at the Petroferm facility in Gurnee)

I delivered a Washington update to the Rotary Club of Antioch in Lake County, sharing information about key legislative and regulatory issues and mapping out legislative activity for May. I also congratulated the next generation of our best and brightest, the recipients of the Rotary Student Scholarship Award.



(Rep. Hultgren addressing the Antioch Rotary Club)



(Rep. Hultgren congratulating Rotary Student Scholarship Award Recipients)

Talking Train Delays, Jobs and Manufacturing in Will County

Freight train delays have been plaguing the Village of Plainfield and nearby commuters, raising concerns about safety as stopped trains block emergency vehicles from accessing their calls. On Friday, I met with the Mayor of Plainfield, Michael Collins, and a group of Plainfield town officials to discuss with them the ongoing challenges they are facing with Canadian National railroad, which operates the trains.

Trains stopped for an hour or more can be an enormous burden on a community, and I am working closely with Plainfield and Canadian National to find a solution that ensures the safety of residents, eases congestion and protects the economic concerns of all involved.

I also presented an update on Washington and legislation

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affecting Illinois at the **Will County Center for Economic Development in Joliet** which includes representatives from manufacturers like Caterpillar, to educators like Joliet Junior College, to the Will County Farm Bureau and the Three Rivers Association of Realtors. We talked about how Washington legislation will affect business growth in Will County, and I learned from local business leaders what their top concerns were as Congress enters debate over upcoming transportation bills.

My number one priority is getting workers in the 14th District back to work. We must help connect workers with the training and education they need for the jobs of the 21st century by making sure the unemployed in the 14th District are informed about the various sectors who are hiring and the specific skills needed to gain employment—and then find the right educational or training options to get there.

But the policies coming out of Washington and Illinois right now are driving away businesses and promoting uncertainty in the marketplace. Burdensome regulations are keeping businesses from growing and hiring more workers. Threats of progressive taxes and unfriendly policies here in Illinois are scaring our employers into fleeing to neighboring states.

One solution is my bill H.R. 309, the Regulatory Sunset and Review Act of 2013, which **helps break the federal government's bad habit of writing burdensome rules and regulations on American businesses.** It was just endorsed by the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council, and I look forward to action on it in the House. I also recently introduced H.R. 4571, the Encouraging Employee Ownership Act (EEOA) of 2014, which makes it easier for companies to offer ownership to employees. Companies like Scot Forge in Spring Grove have shown me that ownership incentivizes the extra effort to achieve great success, so that employees can earn the large upside that comes when they perform well. **We should applaud ownership from the board room to the shop floor.**

A great example of an important Illinois business is Vintage Tech Recyclers, a global leader in the electronics recycling industry, which I was pleased to tour in Romeoville. Businesses like these which employ many 14th District residents should not have to play defense against the federal government.



(Rep. Hultgren tours Vintage Tech Recyclers)

Chicks Hatch at Illinois Teacher of the Year's Egg-ceptional Class

Chicks arrived last week in the classroom of Pam Reilly, Second-Grade Sandwich educator and 2014 Illinois Teacher of the Year. These second-grade students have been patiently waiting for these chickens to hatch, and their joy at experiencing and then witnessing the miracle of life in the classroom is what makes teachers like Pam Reilly crucial to our

children's future. Caretaking of chicks from egg to hatching is a child's first step toward the wider world of science and medicine.



(Rep. Hultgren reads to Second-Grade class)

I was thrilled to meet with the students, share a favorite book and highlight the Illinois Teacher of the Year program. I always enjoy visiting with kids in the 14th District, but being able to spend time reading to them was the highlight of my day, and I'm grateful to Mrs. Reilly for the opportunity. I was privileged to first meet Pam when she traveled to Washington, D.C. and am encouraged by how she is inspiring teachers and students across our great state.



(Rep. Hultgren with IL Teacher of the Year Pam Reilly's Second-Grade Class)



(Rep. Hultgren holds recently hatched chickens with son, Kole)

[Honoring Law Enforcement, Defending Air Traffic Controllers in Kane County](#)

Last week was National Police Week where we remember the sacrifices of those living and those who lost their lives in the line of duty. I was honored to help recognize our brave men and women who protect our communities and face danger every day at a ceremony at Mooseheart House of God near Batavia and Aurora.

Back at my Geneva office, I met with Air Traffic Controllers to discuss their frustrations over the FAA's new hiring standards for employment which adversely affect many who have spent time and money to enter the field. I will be keeping in close contact with them and the FAA to find a solution.

[Getting Answers from Sec. Shinseki about Illinois' Hines VA Hospital](#)

Recent allegations regarding secret lists concealing long

patient wait times for appointments at a VA hospital in Phoenix—delays that may have been responsible for the deaths of up to 40 veterans—are disturbing. That veterans have died waiting for appointments at VA facilities is outrageous and unacceptable.

Unfortunately, similar accusations of secret lists have arisen involving the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital in suburban Chicago, a facility used by many veterans throughout northern Illinois, including in the 14th Congressional District.

Last Friday I pushed Secretary Eric Shinseki of the Department of Veterans Affairs to expand his investigation into the disturbing allegations to include Hines Hospital.

I wrote: “Such allegations are gravely troubling in and of themselves, but they cause me particular concern given the fact that the director of the Phoenix facility that is the subject of the current investigation previously served as director of the Hines VA Hospital. Although I am aware of no specific evidence outside these allegations to indicate secret lists were used at Hines, the allegations themselves, coupled with the fact that the same director has led both the Phoenix and Hines hospitals, to my mind is disconcerting enough to justify an expansion of the federal investigation.”

The VA under Shinseki’s watch has veered from its core mission of delivering quality health care to veterans and there are deep flaws in its organizational structure that hinder the VA’s ability to provide quality health care coverage. It’s time for the VA to conduct a review of its systems to determine what changes can be made to improve its performance.

The problem with long wait times at VA facilities is not a new one. Last year, I cosponsored H.R. 241, the Veterans Timely Access to Health Care Act, which would ensure a veteran’s access to hospital and medical care within 30 days of original contact with the VA. I also supported passage of H.R. 2189 that would establish a commission or task force to examine the backlog of disability claims at the VA.

Our nation’s veterans have served selflessly and sacrificed much in the service of this country. They deserve the best health care our nation can provide them. When we as a nation fall short on that commitment, they deserve answers and an assurance that things will be made right.

Creating Inspector General to Oversee Obamacare

The continued rollout of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has resulted in loss of choice, rising premiums, botched national and state websites, a myriad of missed deadlines, reduced worker hours and cancelled insurance plans.

Now more than ever, the American people need a watchdog investigator to hold this massive program accountable and ensure a complete and truthful accounting of the ACA.

That’s why I have cosponsored legislation (H.R. 4158) that creates a Special Inspector General for Monitoring the ACA (SIGMA). This legislation would save taxpayer dollars and root out fraud, waste and abuse in President Obama’s healthcare law.

The SIGMA Act would:

- Create the only position in the federal government that is responsible for comprehensively inspecting all aspects of the ACA’s implementation, including the role of federal departments and agencies, along with contractors, state governments and the White House.
- Require the SIGMA to issue quarterly reports and audits about the ACA, including the actions of the Independent Payment Advisory Board, the ACA’s missed implementation deadlines, improper government payments and impact on healthcare costs and health care providers.
- Provide SIGMA with the same law enforcement authority and investigative powers as standing Inspectors General, including subpoena and audit powers that could require the Obama Administration to account for the law.

Previous Special Inspectors General have been extremely effective, such as the Special Inspector General for TARP (SIGTARP). SIGTARP saved taxpayers \$500 million, led to 122

criminal convictions and produced \$4.7 billion in fines and other penalties for the taxpayer and other victims.

[Supporting Local Foodservice Distributors and Thomas Jefferson's Free Enterprise Principles](#)

Illinois is proud to host a number of International Foodservice Distributors Association's (IFDA) members including Dot Foods, Reinhart Foodservice, U.S. Foods, and Gordon Food Service, which operates a Batavia location in the heart of the 14th District. These businesses provide valuable jobs to Illinois workers and increase our capacity to export fresh meats, produce, dry goods, frozen products and more—produced right here in Illinois. I was honored to receive their Thomas Jefferson Award for the second time which recognizes Members of Congress who vote to “support job growth, the private sector and free market principles,” and are dedicated to free enterprise, as stated by IFDA President and CEO Mark S. Allen.

If you haven't already, be sure to like my [Facebook page](#), follow me on Twitter ([@RepHultgren](#)), or check out my [YouTube page](#) to stay informed on everything I'm doing on your behalf in Washington and in Illinois.

As always, thank you for the honor and privilege of serving you.

In Your Service,



*Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress
14th District, Illinois*

[Randy in the News](#)

Chicago Tribune: [Delays at train crossings irk Plainfield officials](#)

Daily Herald: [Hultgren fights trafficking](#)

Deerfield Review/Lake Zurich Courier: [Rep. Hultgren travels Lake County to talk economy](#)

DeKalb Daily Chronicle: [Our View. Lawmaker fights modern slavery](#)

Elburn Herald: [Hultgren bringing office to 14th District constituents](#)

Elburn Herald: [Hultgren commends Illinois' heroin state of emergency declaration](#)

IPC: [Congressman Randy Hultgren Tours Petroferm](#)

Kane County Chronicle: [Hultgren talks about need to cut government regulations](#)

New York Post (oped): [Protecting the economy from terror](#)

Northwest Herald: [Hultgren's staff to meet with constituents in McHenry County](#)

Plainfield Patch: [Plainfield Board Schedules Special Meeting with Hultgren](#)

[Bringing My Office to You](#)

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Sugar Grove Village Hall

10 Municipal Dr., Sugar Grove, IL 60554

Thursday, May 22, 2014

9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Woodstock City Hall

121 W. Calhoun St. Woodstock, IL 60098

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Antioch Village Hall

874 Main Street, Antioch, IL 60002

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